



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

D.T.E. 05-61

October 12, 2005

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own motion as to the propriety of the rates and charges set forth in the following tariff: M.D.T.E. No. 17, filed by Milford Water Company, and suspended by the Department for further investigation.

On September 15, 2005, Milford Water Company ("Milford" or "Company"), filed a base rate petition with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") seeking additional annual revenues of \$1,156,555. The Company proposed changes to its rates that, if approved, would result in an average 39 percent increase to the Company's customers. Under the Company's proposal, any increase would occur in two phases: the Phase I increase would take effect upon issuance of the Department's Order in this proceeding; the Phase II increase would take effect one year after the effective date of the first rate increase. Under Milford's Phase I proposal, an average residential customer using 2,400 cubic feet of water per quarter could expect to see their bill increase by \$1.93 per quarter, from \$58.01 to \$59.94 per quarter. Under the Company's Phase II proposal, an average residential customer using 2,400 cubic feet of water per quarter could expect to see their current bill increase by \$11.45 per quarter, from the current \$58.01 per quarter to \$69.49. Bill impacts to commercial and industrial customers would vary. Milford has also proposed to change its billing cycle from a quarterly basis to a monthly basis. In addition, the Company has proposed to implement new or revised fees for certain services.

The Department has suspended the effective date of the proposed rate increase until April 1, 2006, in order to investigate the propriety of the proposed rate increase. The Department last granted Milford a rate increase in 1999.

A public hearing on the proposed rate increase will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at Milford Town Hall, Room 3, 52 Main Street, Milford, Massachusetts. Persons interested in commenting on the Company's filing may appear at the public hearing or file written comments with the Department by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on November 16, 2005.

Any person who desires to participate in this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, November 18, 2005. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1). Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

Comments or petitions to intervene should be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.T.E. 05-61); (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix), in Microsoft Word (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix), or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a ".pdf" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All written pleadings or comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. Comments or petitions to intervene must also be filed with the Company's counsel, Eric J. Krathwohl, Esq., Rich May, 176 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110-2223.

A copy of Milford's filing will be available for public viewing during normal business hours (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) at the offices of the Department. The Company's petition will also be available for public viewing at the offices of the Company, 66 Dilla Street, Milford, Massachusetts, and Milford Town Hall, 52 Main Street, Milford, Massachusetts. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact the Company's counsel, Eric J. Krathwohl Esq., at 617-556-3857, or John J. Geary, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts at 617-305-3500.



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Milford Water Company ("Company") is required to publish the attached notice in the Milford Daily News and the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, once at least twenty-one (21) days prior to November 16, 2005, and again seven (7) days prior to said date. In addition to a newspaper publication and instead of a bill insert, the Company shall mail its ratepayers, by first-class mail, postage pre-paid, a copy of the attached notice at least ten (10) days in advance of the public hearing.

The Company is required to serve a copy of its filing on the Chairman, Board of Selectmen, and Town Clerk of the Town of Milford, and is also required to make return of service and publication at the time of the public hearing.

By Order of the Department,

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary